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L12: Entry 1 of 2   File: PGPB   Aug 29, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020120475 A1
TITLE: System and method for arranging shipment and insurance for an item

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0006] However, Internet retailers face many obstacles to turning a profit. Chief
among these obstacles are high shipping costs. For example, assuming an online
retailer of compact disks (CDs) based in California sells a CD to a customer in New
York for $12. The customer may be unwilling to pay $3 (i.e., 25% of the sales
price) for shipping. Internet retailers of consumer goods such as CDs, videos, and
consumables face a more difficult challenge than retailers of more expensive items
such as jewelry. Consumers are less likely to object to paying a $3 shipping charge
for a $100 necklace than for a $12 CD.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0007] Taxes combine with shipping costs to influence online consumer purchasing
decisions. Currently, many Internet retailers do not charge their customers sales
tax, which tends to offset the high shipping costs to some extent. However, sales
tax is typically less than 10% of the sales price, so shipping costs still pressure
Internet retailers to lower their prices more than traditional brick-and-mortar
retail stores. Furthermore, the future of current moratoriums on Internet sales
taxes remains uncertain. It is likely that traditional brick-and-mortar retailers
will exert considerable pressure on federal and state governments to "even the
playing field" by forcing Internet retailers to pay some sort of Internet sales
tax. For this reason, the importance of reducing shipping costs may become even
more critical in the near future. Of course, reduced shipping costs may also
benefit non-Internet businesses and consumers in general.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0008] Many consumers also regard the insurance costs as being too high, further
adding to the overall cost of the product. This is especially true when the
shipping and insurance costs account for a substantial percentage of the product
costs. For example, many consumers may object to paying $3 in shipping charges and
$1 for insurance costs when they purchase a $12 music CD. Thus, an improved system
and method for arranging shipment and insurance for an item that is being shipped
or mailed is needed.

Detail Description Paragraph:
[0056] In one embodiment, each regional shipping company or hub 80-88 may be
configured with a container processing apparatus that is directly or indirectly
connected to a network 92. In one embodiment, as shown in the figure, network 92 is
used to couple the processing apparatuses to a central server 90. While different
types of networks may be used, in one embodiment the processing devices at the
regional shipping company hubs and central server 90 may be connected via the
Internet. In some implementations, the central server 90 may be configured to
routinely poll each regional hub to determine availability, shipping times, and
prices. Central server 90 may be configured to maintain a database of this
information that is periodically updated. A customer wishing to ship an item may
then contact one of the regional shipping companies or the central server directly
(e.g., via the Internet). The customer may be prompted to provide information about
the package to be shipped (e.g., size, weight, origination, final destination,

shipping deadline, and any <u>insurance</u> or special handling requirements). If this information is provided to a regional shipping company or hub, the company or hub may then forward the information to central server 90 of an intelligent shipping agent to query the database for a quote. In response, central server 90 may execute an optimization program configured to search out the most efficient (e.g., lowest cost) routing for the <u>package</u> within the specified time constraints. Central server 90 included in the intelligent shipping agent may also have information about traditional shipping alternatives (e.g., direct routing using one shipping company) for comparison.

<u>Detail Description Paragraph</u>:
[0079] In one embodiment, the databases are maintained by periodically dispatching intelligent agents that are configured to traverse a network such as the Internet to find web sites or other network-accessible databases (steps 127 and 128). The intelligent agents may be configured to query web sites <u>belonging</u> to third parties (e.g., shipping companies and insurance companies, agents or brokers) in order to update the databases with current information on pricing and other information relating to shipping and insurance. Advantageously, by periodically dispatching intelligent agents (or by periodically querying third party sites), one or more internal databases may be assembly, thereby allowing real-time queries to be performed. As described above, shipment using multiple carriers may be supported in this method. In other embodiments, reverse auctions may be initiated in order to populate the databases with current pricing information.

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L11: Entry 24 of 28   File: PGPB   Oct 24, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020156645 A1
TITLE: Network-based solution for secure parcel delivery and pick-up

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0011] Accordingly, a personalized, secure, convenient, cost-effective, and
efficient parcel delivery apparatus, method and system is of tremendous interest to
the shipping and delivery industries, to companies, such as traditional retailers
as well as e-tailers, and to individual consumers.

Detail Description Paragraph:
[0053] In another embodiment, upon ordering a product, the notification can be
immediately sent to a customer and indicate an assigned parcel compartment at a
particular parcel kiosk, an anticipated delivery date, directions to the kiosk, a
contact phone number of delivery company, parcel identification numbers, and the
like. This notification can be sent via e-mail, automated voice response, and the
like. Further, customers can then be notified of a prescribed amount of time (for
instance, one or two weeks--determined for instance by the level of kiosk use, or
standard corporate policy) to pick up a parcels at the specified kiosk without
incurring further charges. If a customer is tardy or overdue in making a pick-up,
rather than returning the package some other location, holding charges can be added
(e.g., for each day after the prescribed period has lapsed). This information can
also be included in the notification.

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L11: Entry 25 of 28   File: PGPB   Aug 29, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020120475 A1
TITLE: System and method for arranging shipment and insurance for an item

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0006] However, Internet retailers face many obstacles to turning a profit. Chief among these obstacles are high shipping costs. For example, assuming an online retailer of compact disks (CDs) based in California sells a CD to a customer in New York for $12. The customer may be unwilling to pay $3 (i.e., 25% of the sales price) for shipping. Internet retailers of consumer goods such as CDs, videos, and consumables face a more difficult challenge than retailers of more expensive items such as jewelry. Consumers are less likely to object to paying a $3 shipping charge for a $100 necklace than for a $12 CD.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0007] Taxes combine with shipping costs to influence online consumer purchasing decisions. Currently, many Internet retailers do not charge their customers sales tax, which tends to offset the high shipping costs to some extent. However, sales tax is typically less than 10% of the sales price, so shipping costs still pressure Internet retailers to lower their prices more than traditional brick-and-mortar retail stores. Furthermore, the future of current moratoriums on Internet sales taxes remains uncertain. It is likely that traditional brick-and-mortar retailers will exert considerable pressure on federal and state governments to "even the playing field" by forcing Internet retailers to pay some sort of Internet sales tax. For this reason, the importance of reducing shipping costs may become even more critical in the near future. Of course, reduced shipping costs may also benefit non-Internet businesses and consumers in general.

Summary of Invention Paragraph:
[0008] Many consumers also regard the insurance costs as being too high, further adding to the overall cost of the product. This is especially true when the shipping and insurance costs account for a substantial percentage of the product costs. For example, many consumers may object to paying $3 in shipping charges and $1 for insurance costs when they purchase a $12 music CD. Thus, an improved system and method for arranging shipment and insurance for an item that is being shipped or mailed is needed.

Detail Description Paragraph:
[0056] In one embodiment, each regional shipping company or hub 80-88 may be configured with a container processing apparatus that is directly or indirectly connected to a network 92. In one embodiment, as shown in the figure, network 92 is used to couple the processing apparatuses to a central server 90. While different types of networks may be used, in one embodiment the processing devices at the regional shipping company hubs and central server 90 may be connected via the Internet. In some implementations, the central server 90 may be configured to routinely poll each regional hub to determine availability, shipping times, and prices. Central server 90 may be configured to maintain a database of this information that is periodically updated. A customer wishing to ship an item may then contact one of the regional shipping companies or the central server directly (e.g., via the Internet). The customer may be prompted to provide information about the package to be shipped (e.g., size, weight, origination, final destination,

shipping deadline, and any <u>insurance</u> or special handling requirements). If this information is provided to a regional shipping company or hub, the company or hub may then forward the information to central server 90 of an intelligent shipping agent to query the database for a quote. In response, central server 90 may execute an optimization program configured to search out the most efficient (e.g., lowest cost) routing for the <u>package</u> within the specified time constraints. Central server 90 included in the intelligent shipping agent may also have information about traditional shipping alternatives (e.g:, direct routing using one shipping company) for comparison.

Refine Search

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L13 and reimburs$6	3

Database:

```
US Pre-Grant Publication Full-Text Database
US Patents Full-Text Database
US OCR Full-Text Database
EPO Abstracts Database
JPO Abstracts Database
Derwent World Patents Index
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins
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Search: `L14`

[Refine Search]

[Recall Text]   [Clear]   [Interrupt]

Search History

DATE: Saturday, April 01, 2006   Printable Copy   Create Case

Set Name (side by side)	Query	Hit Count	Set Name (result set)
	DB=PGPB,USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ		
L14	L13 and reimburs$6	3	L14
L13	16 and (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee or charg$3) same (transport$6 or shipp$3)	55	L13
L12	L11 and (luggage or belonging$)	2	L12
L11	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3)	28	L11
L10	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (luggage or belonging$)	1	L10
L9	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass$6 or avoid$6) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (luggage or belonging$)	0	L9
L8	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass$6 or avoid$6) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (luggage or belonging$) same (return$ or accept$6 or rehold$6)	0	L8
L7	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass$6 or avoid$6) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (packag$3 or luggage or	1	L7

	belonging$) same (return$ or accept$6 or rehold$6)		
L6	(calculat$6 or determin$6 or anlayz$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same packag$6 same (automatic$4 or automat$ or electronic$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	172	L6
L5	L4 and packag$3 same (return$3 or accept$6 or rehold$3)	0	L5
L4	L3 and access$6 same (data or information)	1	L4
L3	L1 and (calculat$6 or determin$6 or anlayz$6)same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same (automatic$4 or automat$ or electronic$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	2	L3
L2	L1 and (calculat$6 or determin$6 or anlayz$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same packag$6 same (automatic$4 or automat$ or electronic$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	0	L2
L1	(4766539 or 5704045 or 6128598).pn.	3	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

Refine Search

Search Results -

Terms	Documents
L11 and (luggage or belonging$)	2

Database:

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EPO Abstracts Database
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Derwent World Patents Index
IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletins

Search: L12

[Refine Search]

[Recall Text]   [Clear]   [Interrupt]

Search History

DATE: Saturday, April 01, 2006   Printable Copy   Create Case

Set Name side by side	Query	Hit Count	Set Name result set
	DB=PGPB,USPT; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ		
L12	L11 and (luggage or belonging$)	2	L12
L11	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3)	28	L11
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L9	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass$6 or avoid$6) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (luggage or belonging$)	0	L9
L8	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass$6 or avoid$6) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (luggage or belonging$) same (return$ or accept$6 or rehold$6)	0	L8
L7	L6 and (merchant or consumer) same (bypass$6 or avoid$6) same (cost$3 or pric$3 or fee) same (transport$6 or shipp$3) same (packag$3 or luggage or belonging$) same (return$ or accept$6 or rehold$6)	1	L7
	(calculat$6 or determin$6 or anlayz$6) same (premium or insurance or		

L6	assurance or policy) same packag$6 same (automatic$4 or automat$ or electronic$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	172	L6
L5	L4 and packag$3 same (return$3 or accept$6 or rehold$3)	0	L5
L4	L3 and access$6 same (data or information)	1	L4
L3	L1 and (calculat$6 or determin$6 or anlayz$6)same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same (automatic$4 or automat$ or electronic$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	2	L3
L2	L1 and (calculat$6 or determin$6 or anlayz$6) same (premium or insurance or assurance or policy) same packag$6 same (automatic$4 or automat$ or electronic$3 or online or internet or e-commerce)	0	L2
L1	(4766539 or 5704045 or 6128598).pn.	3	L1

END OF SEARCH HISTORY